The Canadian Philatelic Weekly

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Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

Our Progress in 1893.

BY FREDERICK S. FOX.

AT this Yule tide festival, when we are about to bid a long farewell to 1893, and ring in a hearty welcome to 1894, it may be interesting to cast our eyes backward through the long months and weeks of this Columbian year, and ascertain what progress, if any, our hobby has made since January 1st, 1893. Twelve months since, the philatelic sooth-sayers, in glowing words of prophecy, predicted, in 1893, one of the most successful years in Philately's history. And, in truth, their enthusiastic predictions were based, not on groundless reasons, nor were the most conservative at fault in deeming their words worthy of fulfillment. The issue of the Columbian stamps and envelopes, together with the manifold new attractions in the Columbian Exposition and its various stamp exhibits, certainly furnished tempting food for thought and hope.

And a look into the past will reveal to us the fact that we have not hoped in vain. The impetus given to collecting circles by the Columbian stamps cannot be conceived. A merely casual observation will convince us that the number of new collectors added to our ranks by means of this issue is legion. In proof of this, I refer you to the membership lists of our societies. Wonderful gains have been made in new members by all of them, especially by those which are conducted, presumably, in the interests of the younger collectors, to whom the Columbian issue appeals more directly.

While the number of new philatelic journals issued during the year is not unusually large, the death rate, on the other hand, has been remarkably low. Then, too, an increasing production of new issues in stamp journalism is popularly regarded as a doubtful blessing. The newly-made members of our fraternity have contributed their support to our journals, and as a result we find the majority improved and healthier in appearance, while their prospects for a long and successful career in the journalistic world have increased correspondingly. Take the *Canadian Philatelist* for an example.

We have witnessed "hard times" in 1893. And yet, upon inquiry and investigation, we will find that in spite of all unfavorable circumstances, our dealers have every reason to be satisfied with their business from January to December, and that in most cases their receipts for the year will show a marked increase over those of 1892—a most gratifying state of affairs when the business depression and general financial gloom of the year is considered.

Have the prophecies of 1892 borne fruit? As we survey the field, and note the general improvement in matters philatelic over last year, an emphathic "yes," must surely be our answer, and we have cause to congratulate ourselves of Philately's triumphant march in the last twelve months. In spite of bank failures and business panics, our hobby has progressed wonderfully. With satisfaction, then, we can turn our thoughts to the coming year, and with new strength use our endeavors in making 1894 a more successful year in Philatelic affairs than 1893 has been. A few grains of sand and determination will do it. A constant perseverance will crown our efforts in this direction with the fruits of success, and a year hence, if we will have used this perseverance, cold facts will bear me out in this assertion.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

A Philatelic Aviary.

BY C. E. JENNY.

IN looking over our stamp collections, many and varied are the scenes presented to us. The designs can be roughly divided into several classes, as follows: Scroll work, like the rapid telegraph stamps of the U. S.; portraits, which is the most numerous class; scenes, rural or otherwise; birds, animals, trees and flowers. I will deal now with the birds depicted on postage stamps. To begin with the U. S., although it has no notable instance, and none at all in the regular issues.* But on some of the locals are to be found our national emblem, the eagle, and that appropriate bird, the dove, messenger of peace and good news. Since the eagle has been mentioned, I may as well say a little more about it. As the king of birds, he has long been the emblem of many nations. As the most powerful of the birds of the air, he has been chosen by empires; and as the bird of freedom, republics have decked their banners with him. In the Coats of Arms, and consequently the stamps of almost all the central European countries he is found in some form, half, double, or single.

On the early stamps of Bolivia can be seen the condor, more powerful even than the eagle. Its home is in the Andes, especially in and around Bolivia.

On the beautiful stamps of Gautemala appears what many call a parrot, but it is not. It is the quetzal, the sacred bird of the Aztecs. In Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico," and Lew Wallace's 'Fair God," very interesting accounts and description of this famous bird can be read. In fact it has a place for itself in history, and no better subject for romance could be found.

On the stamps of Japan we have the pheasant, a bird very common in that country, where many beautiful varieties of it can be found.

The interesting jubilee set of New South Wales has two of the peculiar birds of that country upon its stamps, viz., the cassowary and the lyre-bird. The cassowary resembles, in some respects, the ostrich, while the lyre-bird is so-called from the fact that its tail is in the form of a perfect lyre. The natives of Australia, man, bird and beast, are all of the most peculiar form and habits, and it is from this chiefly that Australia is classed as a sixth continent rather than an island.

Last, but not least handsome, we arrive at the stamps of Western Australia, formerly called Swan's River Settlements. As is naturally supposed, this region was the home of the wild swan, and it is here that is found that *rara avis*, the black swan. Certainly this country has chosen a pretty and appropriate device for its stamps, and one from which it has never varied. So much for the bird division of natural history, recalled to us by our stamps. I will speak later of the animals, whose portraits are sent around the world.

*ED. NOTE.—The 50c of 1869 has an eagle in its design.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

These are Philatelists*

WALTER A. WITHROW.

A PHILATELIST is a stamp-collector who studies, classifies and arranges stamps. The collector who carefully studies stamps and arranges them into sheets or blocks, in their original position, who examines into the papers on which the stamps are printed, who studies the various methods of printing and engraving, who studies his stamps with reference to shades of color, who examines into minute points of difference in the plates or dies, from which the stamps are printed, *is a philatelist.*

The dealer in stamps, the philatelic author and the philatelic poet are not necessarily philatelists. If the author and poet do not study their stamps, if the dealer sells his stamps without reference to shade, paper or methods of engraving, they are not philatelists.

The collector who studies his stamps and traces their history with reference to their authenticity, is a philatelist. A boy of twelve may be a philatelist as well as a man of fifty years of age. It isn't the age that makes the philatelist—it is the experience and study. It isn't the number of years of collecting that makes the philatelist—it is the amount of study given the stamps. I know a gentleman fifty years of age, with a collecting life of twenty years, who has but little knowledge of philately. He adds a stamp to his collection frequently and that is as far as his interest goes.

Noah Webster died before the general introduction of postage stamps, and certainly before stamp collecting was thought of, and could hardly have defined the word "philately" as it now is, "a collector of stamps."

*ED. NOTE.—See "Who are Philatelists," Dec. 1893, CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

The Philatelic Liar.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

The philatelic liar sat
  Within his cheerless den,
And told weird tales of startling finds
  To calm attentive men.
He told of trunks that he had found,
  Just brimmed and running o'er
With stamps that gaze of mortal eye
  Had ne'er beheld before.

He told of houses he had found
  By lonely country roads,
And how he lugged from out their walls
  Of letters, twenty loads.
He told of congressmen he met
  When but a callow boy,
Who gave him rare department stamps
  And caused him much of joy.

These tales and many more he told,
  Of much the self-same kind,
And still his hearers heard them through,
  To all their "rankness" blind.
And then the liar chewed his quid
  Of "climax" for a while,
And, looking round upon the crowd
  With an engaging smile,

He said that he a paper ran
  Successfully a year,
And never felt a vain regret
  Or shed repentant tear;
And that in all those twelve long months
  He never lost a cent
By men who sent him lengthy ads
  And then on visits went.

His hearers then, with one accord,
  Rose up with wrathful eyes,
And quickly fell upon that man
  Who told such monstrous lies.
They'd heard unmoved his strange accounts
  Of attics, trunks and such,
But that last journalistic tale
  Was just a drop too much.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

Philatelic Literature.

BY A. O. EAST.

THIS is a period of progress and improvement in every line. Hard times, it is true, come ever and anon; yet I have noticed that periods of financial stringency are times in which we wake up and realize that it is a time when especial effort must be made or failure will result.

We are now in the midst of what is considered a time of general depression; yet at what time have our philatelical journals and publications been of such a high standard, showing careful preparation and constant improvement.

I can remember years ago that such a thing as a stamp journal was unknown. I can remember the first efforts in that line, and from that date forward it has been interesting to note the progress that has been made. Yearly, quarterly, monthly, weekly, and I suppose some one will start a daily before long, and I am not sure but I would feel tempted to subscribe to the daily should it appear. Let not this tempt any into the field of philatelic publishing, for it is only with capital (and not always with that) that a journal may be established on a paying basis.

No collector of stamps should be without his library of literature relating thereto, and as the same can be had cheaply, the matter of cost need not stand in the way. A dollar or so expended in subscriptions to our leading journals, and a like sum for works of reference, such as hand-books, catalogues, etc., will be of great value, especially to the young collector.

Every collector may be said to receive large numbers of sample copies of various papers, many of which may be duplicates. It is always easy to exchange those that you have duplicates of with other collectors, and the exchange will prove of mutual advantage, as both are enabled to dispose of their duplicates and add to their library.

Regarding binding. Never bind an incomplete volume if you can avoid it, as I have always found that if I lacked but one number of a volume, and all my efforts to procure it had failed, that no sooner was the eleven numbers bound than the twelfth was secured. In many cases a year's numbers of some of the smaller papers are too thin to bind separately, and it is advantageous to bind together volumes of two or three journals, whose pages are uniform in size. This saves expense, and makes a neat book.

It is often a question which journals to subscribe to, there being so many which are deserving. I have always subscribed to the older journals first, and to those whose publishers are well-known, and whose name is a guarantee that your subscription will be filled. So many journals come one month and die the next that to subscribe to every one you receive a sample of, is quite often a case of wasting money, although I am acquainted with several collectors who subscribe to each and every journal of which they receive a sample copy. Of course our pocket-books are of various sizes, and they are what rule our expenditures, etc. Yet I would, in closing, strongly advise every collector to have a library of philatelical literature, however small it may be.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

Optimism in Philately.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

OPTIMISM is one of the world's greatest and most potent agents for good. It sweetens our bitter experiences, brightens clouded skies, causes the smile of hope to chase away the frown of despair, and, taking all in all, could not readily be dispensed with. Many a shattered fortune has been repaired, and many a seemingly hopeless battle won, simply because those who struggled were endowed with a vast amount of hope, and looked at their surroundings with optimistic eyes. That optimism is a good thing, no one will deny. It plays an important *rôle* in the business world. What does it do in the smaller sphere of philately? Is its influence there always a good one? Should we unreservedly commend its various operations in our stamp collecting community? Let us see.

Perhaps, in considering this subject, I cannot do better than bring to your attention two examples, which are easily observable by any wide-awake collector. These illustrations I shall take from the philatelic journalistic world. The first one shows the good results of a proper optimism; the second shows the evil results of an improper optimism.

A collector decided to start a monthly, devoted to our hobby. His ready cash is small in amount but he is a good worker, a ready writer, and has large hope and indomitable perseverance. He may be slightly dazzled by the supposed charm surrounding journalism, but notwithstanding his enthusiasm, he is cautious, and resolves to keep his expenditures within his means. The first issue of his paper appears. Every philatelist can imagine the reception it receives. Old and well established periodicals predict a short life for the new venture. Subscriptions are few and far between, and advertisements are scarcer yet. In short, the money expended by the publisher is almost a dead loss, temporarily at least. There is certainly very little encouragement for the new editor in the prospect that looms before him. Right here is where his optimism stands him in good stead. He looks on the right side of things, where apparently there is no bright side to them, and he goes cautiously but hopefully forward, and issues future numbers of his publication. The results are but little better than they were the first month. But still the publisher hangs on and goes forward on his chosen course. He is conservative in his expenditures, but very hopeful as to the ultimate result. Six or eight months pass away, and finally no one knows exactly how success comes. The magazine begins to pay its way, and to leave a small surplus in the pocket of its promoter. The individual for whom the future at one time seemed so dark, is the victor instead of the vanquished. How has he attained to his success? He has promised nothing he could not perform. He has not spent money needlessly, or without tangible results. He has won the confidence of collectors by his conduct, and, above all, his ever-present optimism has carried him over rough places and through dark days. His has been optimism of the proper kind, and its results are pleasing and satisfactory to everyone.

Another philatelist begins the publication of a paper under conditions much similar to those that surrounded the individual whom I considered in the paragraph preceding this one. He, too, has little capital. Like his fellow, he has optimism. He believes that he can conquer the stamp collecting world by force of his unaided efforts. In his mind's eye he sees himself the proprietor of a philatelic journal, as influential as any on the continent. He intends to revolutionize the methods of the entire fraternity, and he actually believes that every worshipper of philately will lend him his immediate and undivided support. So our new editor sends out glowing advertisements, promising big things. The first issue of his magazine is a magnificent one, but by the time it is paid for he has nothing left, and nothing is coming in to reimburse his exhausted exchequer. He has depended on the good-will of the public to tide him over his difficulties, and the public has failed him. He finds it impossible to proceed further with his undertaking. He had hope and plenty of optimism, but it was not tempered with a sufficient amount of caution and conservativeness. His has been an improper optimism, and its results are lamentable in the extreme.

I have not chosen fanciful illustrations. Anyone can observe them for himself in the philatelic world. Everyone must choose for himself which course he must pursue. In the one instance he must be of great good to our cause. In the other he will prove a positive injury. In the one he will win the confidence and esteem of his fellows. In the other he will be looked upon with suspicion, and his undertakings regarded with distrust. Which place do you desire to fill? In whose footsteps will you follow?

HOOPER WAS A FLIRT.

KINGSTON, December 28.—John R. Hooper, awaiting trial at Joliette, for the murder of his wife, it is now recalled was a private patient in the Kingston General Hospital for four weeks in September and October, 1891. He engaged a private room and was under treatment for rheumatism. He attempted a flirtation with a lady patient in another room, but the nurse in charge discovered the correspondence, and the lady patient was removed to another part of the hospital.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY

Postal Card Collecting

LEWIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

THE war of words which for so many moons has fiercely raged between generalists and specialists as to the merits of their respective systems seems to be practically over. All is silence in both camps. Not that the two contending legions have met the fate of the two Kilkenny cats, and after a prolonged fight destroyed each other; but the arguments of one party have proved too convincing to successfully be combated, therefore the other side, after a brave struggle, has sounded a retreat and the war is over. Now, only the occasional volley of some forlorn skirmisher seems to keep up the semblance of battle.

From the very beginning of my collecting career, I have held firmly to the doctrines of generalism, that is, I have believed that the whole world is none too wide a field for the thoroughly enthusiastic stamp collector. But the force of circumstances and of time have somewhat shaken my allegiance to general collecting, and though I am still treading the old paths and gathering in impartially the issues of all five continents, as well as the islands of the sea, I find it useless to shut my eyes to the fact that specialism is gradually strengthening its position and that in time the continual increase in the number of legitimate, collectable varieties, as well as the increasing demands of a constantly increasing army of collectors will render specialism a necessity to that large majority of philatelists who must be guided more by the weight of their pocket books than by their inclinations.

The methods of specialism, however, may be infinitely varied, and thus there are immense opportunities for discussion as to the most fruitful fields for philatelic study. What particular corner of philately shall we explore? That is the great philatelic puzzle of the time, which every specialist is working out in his own way. It is of universal interest, and has received far too little consideration from the organs of our pursuit, the stamp journals, and from our spokesmen and leaders, the philatelic authors.

He who is undecided what to select for his specialty certainly cannot complain of insufficient variety. We may choose to collect the stamps of our own country or any other which especially interests us, of a group of countries, of a nation and its colonies, of a continent or of a world, just as we please. We may collect postage stamps, or we may revel in the accumulation of entire envelopes, or postal cards, or locals, or fiscals. In fact philately is an unexplored wilderness, which we may roam over at will; a democratic pursuit, for no one can dictate what shall be collected. True, stamp collecting has its fashions like all other luxuries, but are we obliged to follow the crowd, to "do in Rome as the Romans do?"

I intend to consider herein what I believe to be an especially interesting branch of specialism, namely the collection of entire postal cards. Postal cards have received some philatelic attention for a long time, but their real merits have not been fully realized until very recently. The card collector can exult over all other philatelists, for he has no fear of the counterfeiter. That despicable parasite troubles him not. He can barter his gold for rarities without a single misgiving that perhaps this seemingly rare old specimen is merely one of the latest products of the forger's art. The surcharge, unfortunately, is not altogether unknown to the accumulator of postals, but as yet forged surcharges are not sufficiently numerous to greatly trouble him.

However the chief merit of this species of collecting lies in the fact that its devotee can secure a first-class collection from all parts of the globe far more easily than he could a good representative collection of postage stamps. A government usually issues only one kind of postal card where it uses a dozen different kinds of stamps. Hence the great advantage of postal card collecting over stamp collecting. An expenditure of $500 for 3,000 varieties of cards makes a fine showing while the same sum spent on stamps will not half fill your album.

The postal card collector has always been puzzled how to properly display his treasures, and numerous attempts have been made to overcome this difficulty, with small success, until Mr. Adolphe Lohmeyer, the only American dealer who makes a specialty of postal cards, and editor of a journal devoted to the interests of card collectors, turned his mind to the problem and solved it by placing on the market an exceedingly practical and convenient album which has proved a boon to American collectors and which ought to stimulate the collecting of cards all over the world. The invention of such an album removes the greatest drawback of card collecting, and it should spread rapidly from now on. Postal card collecting is as pleasurable as stamp collecting and is a far less formidable task. The card is not usually as finely engraved as the stamp now is. It is handsomely colored, but the portrait or emblem is the same on both. Then again, a cancelled stamp is much more defaced than a cancelled postal card, for much of the latter escapes unscathed. Also, on a postal the designer has far more scope for the display of his artistic skill. He can revel in flourishes and fancy scrolls, and ornamental borders, where the engravers of a postal stamp has no such privilege. Taken as a whole, a collection of postal cards really looks handsomer than a similar array of stamps, though they lack the vivid coloring of the latter.

Postal cards can be secured at present at very moderate prices and I believe that there are few better investments, for postal card collecting is sure from its intrinsic merits, to obtain great popularity in the near future. If we must have specialism why should not the postal card be our specialty?

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

Used or Unused, Which?

GEO. B. KLEGES.

SOME collectors refuse all specimens which have been cancelled, and will place in their albums only new or unused stamps. Others will not admit unused stamps, and insist on having used ones only. The "happy medium" between the two extremes seems to me the best plan.

The collector who refuses used stamps, however handsome his collection may appear, must of necessity have many a blank space in his album, for it will be next to impossible to complete many sets unless, indeed, he be possessed of riches in abundance. In this case the stamps may be procured in sets from the countries issuing them, and his album then becomes very attractive. There is another drawback to the collection of unused only, and that is the unfortunate habit of reprinting, which many countries have adopted within the past few years. A collector may see reprints or "remainders" which the officials have sold to dealers at a merely nominal price, hawked about at a penny each, while the specimen in his own collection cost, including postage and time spent in correspondence, several dollars perhaps. True, his stamp is the more desirable, and yet only an expert could detect the difference.

Those who collect used stamps are not expected to have complete sets, and for some reason, which we cannot clearly explain, a break in a set of used stamps does not appear such a serious matter as when the specimens are unused. Even a small used collection, if made up of carefully selected specimens, will always look well, and its value will continually increase.

Do not put into your album stamps which are so badly defaced that it requires a careful examination to determine if the specimen be from Austria or from Turkey. A little care in selecting will add much, not only to the beauty of your collection, but to its value as well. Get stamps with even margins as far as possible, lightly but distinctly cancelled. Avoid specimens so cancelled as to spoil the appearance of the portrait, or whatever the design is, or marked so that it is hardly possible to tell whether the stamp is a 10 reis or 100 reis of Brazil.

Finally, have a care in mounting your stamps. Use hinges and then you can easily change a poor specimen for a better without injuring your album. Never paste your specimens in solid. This is a relic of the barbarous age of collecting and we now live in a more enlightened time.

Stray Humor.

"Here is a stamp from Turkey, and another from Guinea," said Uncle Tom.

"Oh, thank you," cried Baylis. "Maybe I'll get one from Rooster next."

A PLAY IN ONE ACT.

Druggist (aside)—"Now, by my halidom, here cometh the daughter of the rich Judge Turquoise. Forthwith must I hasten to pin beneath my elixir anointed moustache my most entrancing smile, for methinks this peerless maiden cometh hither to purchase of me countless stores of perfumery, blush of roses, chewing gum, and pills. To the Lady—'Ah, good morning, madam. How can I serve you this morning? Speak on, and I will attend.'"

Fair Lady—"Good sir, an' it please you, methinks I should like to purchase a two cent postage stamp. Thanks, awfully—nay, nothing more do I wish. But, alas! what shall I do? My reticule have I left behind, and already have I adorned this packet with the stamp How firmly it adheres—ah, woe is me."

Druggist (gallantly)—"Let it not vex your gentle spirit, madam."

Fair Lady—"Thanks, awfully. Adieu." (exit lady).

Druggist—"To perdition with these simpering, sighing creatures! Away, smile, from beneath thy friendly shelter, and appear there never again! 'Sdeath and all the rest of the by-words which a knight may safely use. This is but the sixth time I have been thus fooled since yester's sun arose. Get thee gone, smile, I say. Henceforth thy master is a hardened man."

THE PHILATELIC PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Forgeries Recently Discovered.

HOLLAND.—Unpaid letter stamp, 1881, one gulden, blue and red. Mr. S. K. Kowing, reports a very dangerous forgery of this stamp.

TURKEY.—Current 10 and 20 paras, 1 and 2 piastres, surcharged with the word "Taxe," and the equivalent in Turkish characters; two complete sets current issue, surcharged "Imprime," in red; three unpaid letter stamps of the former issue; twenty paras and one piastre, surcharged "Imprint," in black. The above surcharges are all false, and have never been in use in any post office in the Turkish Empire.

UNITED STATES.—1868, 90c., blue; 1870, 6, 10, 15 and 24c., with forged grille. Only the above values have been seen, but probably others exist. The grille in those that have been examined was too much oblong in shape, and the points composing same were too far apart.

FREDK. R. GINN,
Honorary Secretary.

—THE—

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The number in the bracket on the wrapper indicates when your subscription expires. A prompt renewal will be necessary as we stop the paper immediately on expiration of subscription.

We prefer all remittances by Post Office Order. We do not accept unused stamps of any countries except Canada and the U. S. in payment for subscriptions and advertisements.

Our supply of back numbers is very limited, and numbers over one week old can only be obtained at 10c. each.

Address all communications, whether pertaining to our advertising, subscription or editorial departments—

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LONDON, CANADA, JANUARY 4th, 1893.

EDITORIAL.

We take this opportunity of wishing our readers a happy New Year, and a New Year's gift in the shape of a specimen copy of the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

It is customary when a new aspirant to journalistic honors appears, for the editor to state that it supplies a long-felt want. Usually this want is chiefly felt by the editor or publisher. We will not say how badly this paper has been needed, or anything on that strain, but simply state that our object is to give stamp collectors a first-class weekly, and thereby make the paper not only a literary, but a financial success.

A few words in reference to some special features which will appear in our columns during 1894. First, and most prominent, is our illustrated catalogue of U. S. envelopes, which appears solely in our pages, and forms a valuable and unique feature, as it enables a collector to distinguish the rare die varieties. This feature is alone worth the subscription price. A portion of the work will appear weekly until completed, which will probably be next October. Our chronicle of new issues is one of the best. Each week we present the portrait of some prominent dealer or collector, thus making our readers better acquainted with one another. Our special correspondents furnish us with weekly letters from the leading philatelic centres. We have made arrangements with the very best philatelic writers for their best articles, a number of which will appear each week. In consideration of these and other special features, we believe that our readers will support us in our claim of being the leading philatelic weekly.

Advertisers who are reliable, and known to us to do what they advertise, are cordially invited to try our advertising columns. For the protection of our readers and advertisers, we are determined to exclude from our pages every questionable advertisement, and under no circumstance will the advertisements of any firm we believe to be unreliable be allowed in our advertising columns. We desire that the advertisers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY shall be beyond reproach.

The swindling and crooked dealing that has been carried on lately must be stopped. This paper will do its share of the work. Cases of swindling and crooked dealing should not be allowed to lay several months before proper action is taken, but should be promptly reported, in order that others may be saved from losing as you have done. The aid of the post office inspector should be used a little oftener. Our columns are always open for showing up these parties in their proper light; but never write us in reference to a party's reliability until you have given him what would be considered a fair chance. If you cannot secure a reply, a letter addressed to the postmaster of the place, requesting him to make inquiries as to the receipt of your letters, quite often brings the party to time.

A party whose business methods and honesty will not bear investigation is one E. E. Raub, of Hyde Park, Mass. We notice some of our contemporaries insert his advertisements quite frequently in their paper. We consider that a publisher who inserts the advertisement of such a party is guilty of a breach of faith to his subscribers. This E. E. Raub obtained from our publishers, on the 6th of last March, a small wholesale selection, valued at a little over $10, for which returns were promised within ten days. The goods were sent by registered mail, and he acknowledged receipt of same, but since that nothing has been heard from him, although he has been written several times. The case is now in the hands of the post office inspector at Boston, and post master at Hyde Park, and developments may be expected in a week or two. We had intended to speak of several others who deal similarly, but have been obliged, owing to pressure of the matter, to put this off till next week.

Our readers will doubtless be glad to receive additional information regarding Mr. J. R. Hooper, the President of the Philatelic Society of Canada, who is charged with the murder of his wife. The Assizes opened at Joliette, Que., on Dec. 15th, and the case of Mr. Hooper was brought on. The jury were out till nearly 4 o'clock, and brought in a true bill against him. The court was crowded, and Hooper was the centre of attraction. He was dressed as he had been at the preliminary examination, and wore a black tie. He was quite pale, and showed signs of nervousness. "John Reginald Hooper," called the clerk, "hold up your right hand, and take it down again," Hooper put it up, but did not heed the latter injunction. He kept his hand above his head during the reading of the indictment, and at its close, his hand still pointing to heaven, in a clear voice, he answered, "Not guilty," pausing between words, as if to give emphasis. The jury which try Hooper are to be half English and half French. Hooper's case has been postponed until after the holidays, and will be brought on Jan. 3rd. The readers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY will be kept informed regularly in regard to the progress of the case. We shall have a report of the opening on the trial and proceedings in our next week's issue.

A good deal has been said of late about the *grilled* stamps of the United States. We were quite amused at an article which appeared recently in the pages of one of our contemporaries hailing from San Francisco. The author went on so far as to state that the rare grilled issues were practically no better than the ungrilled, as a grille could be easily forged so that even an expert could not detect the forging. In proof of the assertion, the publisher presented with the said article a U. S. 1890 3 cent carmine, with forged grille. This stamp itself was enough to show that the writer of the article was astray in his statements so strongly made. The grille was such that even an amateur might see at a glance that it was spurious.

In the latter part of his article, or *Philatelic Crooks*, Mr. Quackenbush has struck the keynote of the best method of wagering war against dishonest collectors. A philatelic protection association, as he suggests, should do good work if properly organized. The English Association has been, and is, a great benefit to philatelists the world over. We should like to hear from our brother editors and readers regarding this matter.

The Philatelic Society of Canada seems to be dead. The annual convention was to have been held in August, but has not been held up to date. The Society has been without an official organ for months. The terms of the officers have expired, and, according to the present state of affairs, it seems as if the Society is no more. Can the Secretary or other officers enlighten us?

Our contemporaries, several of them, at any rate, have declared war against any matter

appearing in our magazines in the shape of philatelic fiction or poetry. We have published both at the risk of incurring the ire of our brother editors. We have many different tastes to please, and those who do not like it can pass it over, and will, we have no doubt, find other matter that will meet their approbation.

We expect to obtain weekly contributions from the following well known writers: Guy W. Green, W. Cullen Brown, Chas. E. Jenney, Roy F. Green, Lewis G. Quackenbush, A. O. East, etc., and occasional contributions from many other writers equally well known. We can always pay a fair price for good MSS., but all such that is submitted to us on approval must be accompanied by return postage, otherwise we cannot undertake to return rejected MSS.

The publishers received quite a number of subscriptions to the *Canadian Philatelic Weekly* prior to the publication of the first number. Judging from our other publications, collectors knew that nothing but a first-class paper would appear under our name and therefore had no hesitation in forwarding their subscriptions before they had seen the paper.

We are desirous of having our subscribers forward us their portraits with a short sketch of their collecting career for publication in our columns. Don't be bashful but forward your photo at once. We present at least one each week, but will not object to printing a dozen if we can get them.

In regard to the size of this paper we would say that it will range from four to sixteen pages, weekly, according to the quantity of MSS., etc., we may have on hand for publication.

We have reserved the advance pages of "Our Catalogue" which is being published by a syndicate of American dealers. The Catalogue seems to be very complete, but it has a somewhat crowded appearance. It is expected to prove no mean rival to the catalogue of the Scott Company.

We have from good authority, and have ourselves reason to believe it to be so, that the Coombs Bros., of St. John, N.B., have taken to themselves another alias and are now ready for more dupes. Look out for them.

Our American friends have a prospect for next year which gladdens their hearts. At last there is a definite proposition before Congress to facilitate the transmittal of small amounts by mail. It is expected that the postal notes will be done away with, and a fractional currency issued, thus doing away with the necessity of remitting in unused stamps, and getting them stuck together.

There is little doubt but that there will be a new issue for the U. S. early in 1894; annual issues are apparently becoming a necessity in the States.

Mr. T. S. Clark.

MR. T. S. CLARK of Belleville, Canada, whose portrait we present this week, is known by name to many of our readers and we are pleased to be able to make them acquainted with his features. Mr. Clark was born in Bombay, India, December 7th, 1854. He was educated in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in 1872 came to Canada and entered the employ of the Belleville branch of the Bank of Montreal. He is at present accountant of that branch. He formed his first collection at an early age, and tired of it, but re-entered the ranks of stamp collectors some years ago. He is one of the leading Canadian dealers and has a very fine collection of Canadian stamps. Mr. Clark is also Secretary-Treasurer of the *Canadian Philatelic Association*.

Correspondence.

[This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any Philatelic question. Those who want any information should send in their queries, which will be published in the following number.]

CANADIAN COLLECTORS.

Editor of CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—It has been thought that a society having membership limited to Canada would do good work. With low dues, *reliable* officers and active departments, such a society should do well. Please write if interested. Suggestions thankfully received, which shall be discussed and passed on. In writing, kindly give opinion upon such matters as dues, age, age limit of officers, working methods of departments, and general policy of society.

Write: ALEX. MUIRHEAD,
228 Hollis Street. Halifax, N. S.

VARIETIES OF CURRENT CANADA POSTAL CARDS.

NORTH WEARE, N. H., Dec, 18, 1893.

Editor CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—Many of my collecting friends are of the opinion that the old small blue and black cards, and the large black, are all of the same type. In looking over a few hundred of these cards quite recently, I discovered the following varieties: The first type has a small, four-leaved flower or clover under the numeral of value at each side, and no ornaments above them. Most of these cards are of a pale blue color, although I noticed several of a dark, rich blue shade. I myself do not consider these shades varieties, although some of your readers may. The second type has leaves and branches above and below the numerals, and extending out at the sides. This type is blue in color, and appears in two shades, and also on two varieties of paper, the first of which is thick and coarse looking, and the second a white, flexible paper. The third type which I noticed has under each numeral, and projecting from the circle in which it is enclosed, an ornament which looks more like a half an ear of corn than anything else that I can think of. This is also printed on coarse, yellow paper. There are also two varieties of the small, black cards, one of which is like type one of the blue cards above mentioned, and the other is like type two of the blue card. The large, black cards are all like type one. I noticed many shades of the above cards. Trusting that this may interest your readers, I remain,

Yours truly,
THOS. G. SUTHERLAND.

SOMALI AND OBOCK.*

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 11, 1893.

Editor CANADIAN PHILATELIST WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—A brother philatelist sends me information from Europe, that the French Government are considering the advisability of establishing a very peculiar postal service in the districts of Somali and Obock. The above service, which is to consist of fast camels, will be conducted in the usual way, and it is stated will have a separate issue of postage stamps, after the design of the 1861, Cape of Good Hope triangulars, and to bear upon its face an inscription in French, Abyssinian and Arabic, the figure to be a mehori, or racing camel, a desert landscape as a background with 1893, the name of the colony and the value.

This unique postage system has been tried with success in South Africa, and I do not see why our French neighbors should not also make it float. The same plan was conducted in England about 40 years ago with horses, before Sir Roland Hill introduced and passed the Penny Postage Act. It is to be hoped that the French Government will soon place these stamps before the philatelic public, as I am sure we shall all be glad to welcome such an artistic stamp as this promises to be, to our collection of philatelic treasures.

Respectfully, JOHN H. BRADBURY.

*ED. NOTE.—This stamp has already been issued.

R. E. PENTECOST.

Editor CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—In regard to this R. E. Pentecost. He did not trade me for much, but he managed to swindle me, nevertheless. He wrote, offering to pay 7 cents each for 25 1887 U. S. 3 cent unused, giving as reference A. W. Dunning, Cal., W. F. Bishop (a snide), and State Senator Pentecost. I sent stamps, and, not hearing from him in 60 days, wrote again, but letter was returned, unclaimed. The P. M. at Aurora, Ill., informed me, in reply to inquiry, that R. E. Pentecost had flown. Mr. Dunning informed me that he was also loser to the amount of about $100. Such beats should be hauled up with a sharp turn.

Respectfully, E. C. REED.

Haughty Lady (who has purchased a stamp)—"Must I put it on myself?" Clerk—"Not necessarily; it will probably accomplish more if you put it on the letter."

* * *

The transportation of mail matter is no small item in the revenue of railroads. In the United States the amount has doubled within a very few years, and it is estimated that $2,500,000 more will be appropriated for that purpose in 1894 than in 1893. Mr. Bissell has asked for $29,994,000 for the weight pay for carrying the mails, and for the use of postal cars for the current fiscal year.

Written for CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

Philatelic Crooks.

BY LEWIS G. QUACKENBUSH.

THE army of persons who "live by their wits," as the saying is, does not seem to suffer the slightest depletion as the years go by. Though honesty may be the best policy, there are still a great many who believe otherwise, and who thoroughly practice what they preach As every newspaper reader knows, Chicago has, since the close of the Fair, been suffering from an epidemic of lawlessness and crime. Pick-pockets, garroters, confidence men, burglars and thieves of every description have been making Rome howl ever since the gates at Jackson Park were closed.

I do not mean to say that that class of citizens described by the artful dodger and other eminent members of his profession as "prigs," ate the bread of idleness and the crust of leisure during the progress of the great Fair. By no means. During the time specified they displayed the most commendable activity in attention to business, and succeeded in transferring considerable personal property of various kinds from the care of others into their own hands for safe keeping But their operations paled into comparative insignificance, beside the manœuvres practiced by the hotel men, the concessionaries on the Fair grounds, and above all by those most distinguished artists in the line of highway robbery, the Chicago hackmen. Only since the Fair has closed have we had time to consider the deeds of those whom some humorist has dubbed: "The Congress of Crooks."

Judging from the frequent wails in our stamp journals regarding approval sheet swindlers, advertising dead beats and similar philatelic pests, one would be tempted to believe that there is ample material in the philatelic cohorts for a very extensive congress of crooks. Certainly there are many sharpers in our ranks who thrive and grow fat on their ill-gotten gains, despite the most strenuous efforts to bring them to justice. The much-sought Lewis Bishop is, perhaps, the most famous of philatelic crooks. He certainly has committed greater havoc in philately than any other swindler of recent date, if as seems probable, he is identical with John J. Morgan and A. B. Quigley. His deeds, rather misdeeds, are so fresh in the minds of every person who reads this that I shall not enter into any detailed recital of his offenses. But there is one thought that suggests itself in connection with this arch swindler, and that is, that as long as he is at large philatelists cannot be too careful regarding whom they trust. There is no doubt that he will soon bob up in some new quarter of the country under a new alias, and both collectors and dealers should be very wary in dealing with any unknown person who may suddenly step upon the scene of action.

To an impartial critic, it would seem no wonder that dealers are swindled so often, for they do not exercise due caution in regard to whom they should trust. Under the approval sheet system, which seems to be the only way in which a stamp business can be carried on by mail, some loss is, of course, inevitable. But it seems to me that the losses need not be so large as they are. In order to outwit the philatelic crooks, stamp dealers should organize and publish a weekly black list to circulate among dealers only.

Every dealer should be posted in regard to the dead-beats, and quickly, too. Just as soon as one dealer is swindled he should inform all other dealers, in order that they may be on their guard and escape loss. I am sorry to say that there are some dealers who, if they have been swindled by an approval sheet fraud, take no pains whatever to warn others, and, in fact, seem more than willing that their competitors shall also suffer a loss. This is not the right spirit. Why should not those in the same line of trade co-operate in removing a common evil? Their interests are identical. Why cannot they unite against the common enemy? We cannot expect to remove this evil altogether, but we can, if we are only sufficiently awake to the need of it, make the defrauding of dealers and collectors so unsafe, that none but the most reckless will undertake it.

The approval sheet fraud, whoses petty speculations are the bane of the stamp dealer's life, is certainly not an honor to philately Therefore, collectors, as well as dealers, are interested in quelching the despicable philatelic crook. The advertising dead-beat is first cousin to the approval sheet swindler, and is just as much of a drag and hindrance to the science as the latter. The good rule recently adopted by some philatelic publishers of requiring cash with copy in all cases, promises a change for the better, and it is to be hoped that other publishers, who are plodding along in the old way, will recognize the merits of this method, and follow suit. With few exceptions, neither one of the three classes, which make up the philatelic army, dealers publishers and collectors, conduct their philatelic dealings in the business-like manner which would be expected. Certainly no business man of any experience whatever would be as trustful and confiding in the rectitude of his fellow-men as is the average philatelist. Most business men have been taught by cruel experience that promises do not count among cash assets, and have been rendered wise thereby. When will philatelists learn wisdom, and cease to trust out their stamps to every Tom, Dick and Harry in the country.

I do not wish to be considered a pessimist or a cynic; on the contrary, I am an optimist of the most pronounced type. But I am often disgusted, and I presume many other philatelists are also, at the many columns in our journals which have to be devoted to black lists. It makes it appear as though we had more than our share of dishonest ones, and it does not tend to give outsiders a very exalted opinion of the class of persons engaged in the science of philately. Any movement which promises to be of the slightest effect in weeding out these parasites should have the hearty support of every philatelist in the land.

It seems to me that it would be a good thing if there were in America an organization similar to the Philatelic Protection Association of England; and I should like to see such a body formed. Money spent on such a society would be a profitable investment. All that is needed to bring about the much-needed change is to prosecute a few culprits and make an example of them, and this could be done much better by an association than by any private individual. One reason why the philatelic crooks are so bold is because they believe themselves to be absolutely safe. Once let them learn that the stealing of approval sheets, or stamps of any kind, will be punished to the full extent of the law, and they will seek fields and pastures new. I can see no reason why the leading dealers of the country could not form such a protection association. The time and money used on it would be nothing compared with the large sums which could be saved annually through the society's efforts. Why can't something of this kind be done? Awake, ye dealers, from your lethargy, and bestir yourself in this matter By organization you can drive the philatelic crooks from their chosen working place. Why not do it?

Blotting paper—what some philatelic poets succeed in doing.

* * *

Of the 3,000 000,000 Columbian stamps printed, it is said that little over half have been sold. How many "remainders" will there be at this time next year?

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

Our English Letter.

BY JOHN BULL, JR.

THE readers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY must excuse the shortness of this week's letter. The editor desired me to have this on hand for the first issue, and, as I had only a few minutes prior to the closing of the Canadian mail, it was a case of a little or nothing, so I decided a little was the best.

A certain Albert Stunock and Alfred Thorne were brought up before the Bow Street Police Court recently, charged with unlawfully obtaining from a certain London firm of stamp dealers approval sheets of stamps, which they failed to return The former lad also stole from a book store an album containing 3,000 stamps, valued at £100. They were let go on suspended sentence.

The *Auction Epitome* for 1890, 1891 and 1892, has appeared. The work is, to all appearances, accurate, and it can be readily seen that Mr. Skipton has taken great pains in the preparation.

The Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society has for its Honorary President the Baron de Worms.

The Oxford Philatelic Society has just forwarded to the Duke of York a finely gotten up address, congratulating him on his recent marriage to Princess Victoria May of Teck.

The exhibition of the stamps of the West Indies, recently held by the *London Philatelic Society*, was a success in every way. The exhibit of H. R. H., the Duke of York, was one of the best. The exhibits, which commanded the greatest interest, were those of Messrs. Chambers, Avery, Geldard, Churcher and Blest.

The market is flooded with Costa Rica's now, since the recent acquisition in remainders was made.

Strange to say, two of our leading London dealers are claiming that they received the highest reward at the World's Columbian Exhibition at Chicago—Mr. T. H. Hinton and Stanley Gibbons, L'td. We are now wondering which of the two firms received the higher award.

Messrs. Williams, Field & Co. were recently robbed of a valuable album containing, among others, the following stamps: Tasmania, strip of 3d., red-brown, imperf. and unused; New South Wales, 3d. green, WAEES; Gibraltar set, and high values of Seychelles and British South Africa They described the thief as a handsome youth of sixteen summers, with large, blue eyes. They afterward succeeded in securing the stolen goods.

—OUR—

Monthly Packet of New Issues.

This packet is made up each month and consists of novelties only, and is for sale to subscribers of the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY, only. The packets cost 25 cents each, or the 12 packets of the year may be had for $2.50, payable in advance.

THE JANUARY PACKET

contains Selangor, 1893, 1 and 2 cent (Tiger); Paraguay, 1893, 1 and 2 cent, both unused; Portugal, 1893, 80 and 100 reis: Canada, 1893, 8 cent slate; Mauritius, 1893, 1 on 2 cent mauve, unused; Belgium, Sunday stamp, 1 cent slate, unused.

PRICE 25c., POST FREE.

ADDRESS—

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY,

185½ Dundas Street,

LONDON, - CANADA.

Our Chronicle.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—According to *The Post Office*, the 60 c. black of the 1800 issue have been seen in an unperforated and unsevered pair, The 1 c. wrapper is now gummed to the right instead of to the left.

AFGHANISTAN.—The Monthly Journal notes a sheet of the shahi 1873-74 (dated 1290,) on thin yellowish paper.

ANGOLA.—The 5 r. of 1886 has been seen in a grey color.

AUSTRIA. We see by the *Quaker City Philatelist*, that a set of unpaid letter stamps with the effigy of the Emperor is in preparation. They will all be brown in color and inscribed, "K. K. Oesten, Porto-marke." The values are 1, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 50 kr.

BARBADOES.—It is said that the registration envelope with stamp in grey is unknown on the island.

BAVARIA. The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has received the new reply card: 5x5 pf. green on buff, water-marked undulations "93."

BHOPAL.—The 8 anna stamps have been re-engraved.

BERMUDA.—The 1½x1½ d. cards have been surcharged as well as the 1½ d.

BOLIVIA.—The 5 and 10 centavos envelopes have recently been seen with the 9 star type.

BELGIUM.—The 2 c. Sunday stamp is to be changed in color. The 35 c. value of the same set has been issued.

CEYLON.—A 30 c. violet and red-brown, same type as the current 3 c., has appeared. Water-marked, Cr. and C. A., and perf. 14.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The first of the new issue, the 1 d., has appeared, and is of attractive design. A figure of Hope resting upon an upright anchor, with a view of Table Bay, Cape Town, and the surrounding hills in the background. All this is enclosed in three scrolls, forming a horseshoe in which is inscribed the words "Cape of Good Hope." Below this in another scroll is the value. It is red-brown in color, is water-marked anchor and perf. 14.

CURACAO.—The 15 c. unpaid letter, new type, has just been issued.

CHEFOO.—A local issue has been prepared for this place: ½, 1, 2, 5, and 10 c.

CHAMBA.—The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain mentions the ordinary and official issues with the name spelt CHMABA.

CHINA.—Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have a vertical pair of the 1 c. green unperforated between the stamps.

COLUMBIA.—The 5 c Railway Postal Service envelope is now printed in red on white paper. The A. J. of P. chronicles the 30 and 40 c. cubiertas of the 1802 type.

ECUADOR.—The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain mentions the following provisionals: 5 c. in black on 1 s. blue; 1 c. slate, 4 c. brown and 5 c. blue fiscals 1887-1888 surcharged 1803-1894.

FERNANDO PO.—The 1 c green has been surcharged in a circle like the 2 and 5 c.; 50 c. de. p. in black on 1 c. green.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The new Registry envelopes are out and the stamp is reduced in size, and the flap now folds over unto the face of the envelope.

GERMANY.—*Le Timbre Poste* has seen the current 3, 25, and 50 pf. unperforated.

GOLD COAST.—The Registered envelope has the inscription "Gold Coast Colony" reset, measuring 53½ m m. instead of 62 m m.

HANKOW.—The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain says: We have seen some vertical strips of the stamps and find they are printed in 10 varieties. All the values are in vertical strips of 10, rouletted horizontally and unperforated vertically, except the 5 c., which is in horizontal strips and rouletted vertically and imperforated horizontally.

HAYTI.—According to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* the current 2 c. has been seen unperforated. The 3 c. violet and 5 c. brick red of the current issue have appeared. Both are perforated

INDIA.—De La Rue & Co. are preparing designs for a new set of the values of 2, 3 and 5 rupees. They will, it is said, be printed in two colors and be about the same size as the current 5 sh. stamp of Great Britain.

LAGOS.—A reply card 1x1 d., carmine on buff, current type, has appeared.

LIBERIA. The 6 c. green of the regular and official issue has been surcharged "Five Cents" across the bottom in two lines, and "5" in the upper corners. A variety is noted in one stamp on each sheet in the *shape* of one of the "5's," and one stamp is without the dot to the "i" in "five."

MONTENEGRO.—Cards of 5 and 5x5 novtch were issued October 1, and are printed in black on blue paper, design same as adhesives. Newspaper bands were also issued on blue laid paper, 2 n. yellow and 3 n. green.

MOROCCO.—*The Monthly Journal* mentions a stamp inscribed, "MOGADOR A MARDOC" with numerals "20" in centre, of the same design as the Mazagan and Morocco Post, perf. 11½, color red.

MOZAMBIQUE COMPANY.—The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain says that the 30 reis Mozambique card has been surcharged similar to the other values.

NATAL.—The 1½ d. cards are to be surcharged ½ d.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The 1 d. card is now printed on white instead of buff.

NORWAY.—A new unpaid letter stamp has been issued, 4 ore violet rose.

NETHERLAND.—The 2½ gulden, blue and rose with Queen's head, has just been issued.

OIL RIVERS.—We see by the *Post Office* that the surcharged Great Britain 1 d. stamp has been cut in two and each half surcharged ½ d.

PARAGUAY.—Mr. Witt of New York has discovered a pair of the 1886 15 c. official stamp with the wavy line pattern on the face instead of on the back,

PERU.—The 5 c. card has been surcharged in three lines "Habilitado por 2 centavos."

PORTO RICA.—It is said that this colony will issue a Columbian stamp with caravels, of the value of 3 centavos.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—The 1 tanga card has been surcharged with the arms of Portugal and "Supprimento 3 reis" in black in curve below.

PUTTIALLA.—We have several copies of the official ½ anna green, surcharged in red and black, in three lines in which the word "Service" is surcharged twice. We have never seen this error chronicled.

ROUMANIA.—A 5x5 b. reply card similar to the 5 b. of the last issue has appeared; also 2 new adhesives with profile of king on front, 1 ten brown and 2 ten orange.

ST. HELENA.—The 6 d. has been printed in blue and surcharged 2½ d. and a short bar.

SARAWAK.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following: 2 c. in black on 8 c. rose and green, pair one stamp has double surcharge, 2 c. in black on 8 c. rose and green, pair; one stamp without surcharge.

SHANGHAI.—The latest productions are, *Unpaid Letter Stamps*, 10 c. orange and ultramarine and ½ c. orange and black; *Envelope* 1 c. black and brown on white laid, size 135x78 m. m.; *Wrapper* ½ c. black and orange on white laid, size 281x103 m. m.; *Letter* card 1 c. brown on blue.

SOUTH AFRICA REPUBLIC.—Mr. Klagsbrun has forwarded us the new 2½ d. violet of the current type.

SIERRA LEONE.—The recent ½ d. surcharge has been found surcharged in error "HALF PENNY."

SPAIN.—*The Stamp News* chronicles the current 5 c. in imperforated condition. The P. R. mentions the 5x5 reply card with inscriptions in capitals.

SOMALIS.—According to *La Gazette Timbrologique* stamps for this colony are being prepared. The set will have three designs and the denomination range from 1 centime to 50 francs. The design is said to be unique.

ST. VINCENT.—Registration envelopes, 2 d. blue, have appeared.

TASMANIA. The 1 d. card, says the *Quaker City Philatelist*, appears with an embossed stamp of the ½ d. vermillion below the 1 d. stamp.

TIMOR.—*Le Timbre Post* mentions the 300 reis orange of Macao surcharged "Timor" at the top and "30" in each lower corner. The same stamp has been utilized for each half of the 10x10 reis card.

TURKEY.—The current 2 piasters brown exists with one stamp in sheet, *tete beche*.

TURKS ISLAND.—The Registered envelopes size H has inscriptions slightly altered. The measurements now are 72½, 118 and 93 m m., instead of 63, 110½ and 90 m m. "Thos. De La Rue and Co's. patent" is printed in blue under the flap.

UNITED STATES.—The 30 and 50 c. postage due are now issued in bright claret.

URAGUAY.—The 1886 15 c. stamp has been found rouletted.

VICTORIA.—The *Philatelic Record* states that the letter card was issued in a new shade on September 21st with perforations rounded at the bottom.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The ½ d. card is now on white.

ZANZIBAR.—*Gazette Timbrologique* chronicles current French stamps surcharged for use in the French Post Office at Zanzibar, as follows: ½ anna on 5 c. green; 1 anna on 25 c. black on rose: 5 anna on 50 c. rose; 10 anna on 1 fr. olive.

Special Notice.

It had been our intention to begin in this week's issue, our illustrated catalogue of U.S. envelope stamps, but as the illustrations came to hand too late for insertion, we have been obliged to lay it over until next week.

* * *

There'll be too many good papers? No, never. The trouble is, there's too many bad ones.

STAMP DEALERS' DIRECTORY

A two or three-line advertisement under this heading $5.00 per year, payable in advance. Extra lines $1.50 each.

BENSON, WM. C. 904 Victoria St., London, Canada. Foreign exchange desired. Send 100 or more stamps of your country and receive same number of Canada and U. S. Fine approval sheets at 40% discount. Reference required.

BOYD, L. B. 469 Colborne St., London, Canada. Foreign correspondence solicited. Send 50 to 200 stamps of your country and receive same number of Canadian.

WE HAVE GOT THE GRIP!

On the Stamp Collectors.

READ THIS ADV. WELL AND FAVOR US BY A REPLY.

Packet No. 1 contains 30 varieties of stamps, including Hayti, Newfoundland, Sardinia, Costa Rica, Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad, etc., all for 25c. An "A 1" bargain. Post paid.

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